



*Snohomish County*  
**COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**



***Vision of the Diversity Committee: "We envision a barrier-free, inclusive community. In this community, people enjoy equal rights and opportunities, dignity, choice, independence, and freedom from neglect and abuse."***

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2016 1:30-3:00PM**

**CoA Participants:** Susan Teel (chair), Jennifer Yuen, So Ying Wong, Mark Sideman, Jan Wrathall, and Tracy Cuajao.

**Guest:** Nora Todd

**Staff:** July André

The meeting began at 1:30 pm, and was held at the Lynnwood Center for Independent Living.

We acknowledged and welcomed each other. Scheduled presenter Terry Schuler, Director of Mill Creek Senior Center had to cancel and was not present.

Susan shared an article written by Eleanor Doerman, titled Discrimination of LGBT Elders in Long-Term care Facilities. Eleanor will be presenting at the next COA meeting, February 24<sup>th</sup>. This topic generated a powerful discussion about diversity in our lives and community, discrimination, and the ongoing need for education. Also discussed was the hope for an engaging conversation at the COA meeting after the presentation, and how to invited people into the conversation so they feel safe to share.

We wrapped up the last 15 minutes of the meeting with a discussion about the committee's focus for the remainder of 2016. There was agreement that the conversations with senior center directors was valuable. July opened the discussion on what outcomes the committee expected to see by the end of the year.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Next meeting: March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, Center for Healthy Living, 1:30 – 3 pm.**